



BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

KEVIN DAVIS
Police Commissioner

October 3, 2016

Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Attention: Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

**Re: City Council Bill No. 15-0254R
Implementing Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion in
Baltimore**

Dear Council President Young and Members of the City Council:

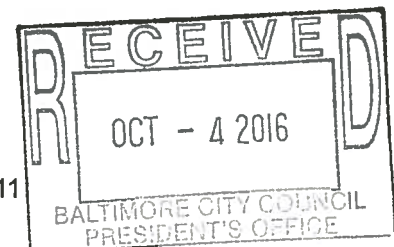
The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) has reviewed City Council Bill No. 15-0254R and offers its support for the resolution. This resolution calls for the expansion of Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion in Baltimore (LEAD) program nationwide and requesting that law enforcement and other stakeholders appear before the City Council to discuss how the LEAD program could be implemented in Baltimore, what partnerships and structures need to be put in place to allow LEAD to succeed, and how to provide it with the necessary human and financial resources.

The BPD supports diversion programs for those who are addicted to drugs and in need of support and treatment as an alternative to arrest and incarceration. LEAD is designed to divert low-level drug offenders from arrest, booking and criminal prosecution, and as an alternative, offers intensive case management, and support services to address the factors that lead to substance abuse. The BPD has played a significant role in the development of a LEAD diversion model in Baltimore.

The BPD supported and partnered in the Behavioral Health System Baltimore's (BHSB) application for the Open Society Institute's (OSI) planning grant for LEAD implementation. We have fully supported BHSB's efforts and have collaborated with stakeholders from the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, Baltimore City Health Department, Office of the Public Defender, and other community partners in the planning phase. A pilot location was identified in the BPD's central district and Captain Rhoden of the central district has played an instrumental role in LEAD planning efforts.

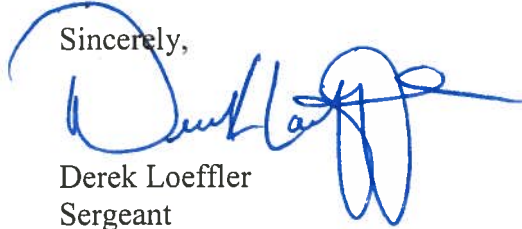
Fav w/ comments

c/o 242 W. 29th Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21211



The BPD fully supports the intent of the resolution and the expansion of diversion programs that improve public safety in our communities and we look forward to continuing to work in collaboration with all stakeholders involved in the LEAD program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Derek Loeffler', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Derek Loeffler
Sergeant
Office of the Police Commissioner

cc: Angela Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison